GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1384
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
MEDICINES VACCINES FOR HIV AIDS
CHADA SURESH REDDY;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;HARIBHAU MAHALE;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any anti-drugs/vaccine has been formulated from Herbs recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have made it mandatory to conduct pre-marriage HIV/AIDS test;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts, action plan, finance for Research in HIV/AIDS medicines/vaccines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) A number of drugs have been formulated from herbs but none of them were found to have anti-HIV activity in tests done at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government encourages Research Institutions for carrying out research in HIV/AIDS particularly related to drugs and vaccines. A Research Core Committee (RCC) under the chairmanship of D.G., ICMR is in place to review research proposals related to HIV/AIDS. National AIDS Research Institute, Pune has been identified as a Technical Resource Group (TRG) to priortise research activities related to HIV/AIDS. Adequate funds have been made available for funding research proposals. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), USA to work towards the development of HIV Vaccine(s). This is being done with the involvement of ICMR institutes like National AIDFS Research Institute (NARI), Pune, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICD), Kolkata and Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai.